REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The non-final Office Action of November 6, 2002 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 8. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 24 and 38. Accordingly, claims 6, 8-9, 24-30 and 38-43 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action dated November 6, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 24-25, 27-30, 38 and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,275); rejected claims 6, 24-30 and 38 -43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Soref (U.S. Patent No. 3,807,831); rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soref. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As requested, we are re-submitting the cited references. However, please note that the cited references were already submitted as evidenced by the filing receipt card attached.

The rejection of claims 24-25, 27-30, 38 and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Sato et al. is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 24 and 38 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 24 and 38 recite a combination of elements including, for example, "a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates, wherein said liquid crystal display is an electrically controlled birefringence type..." None of the cited references including Sato et al., singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 24 and 38, and claims 25, 27-30 and 40-43 which depend therefrom are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 6, 24-30 and 38 -43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated

by Soref is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 6 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 6 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "flat parallel substrates supplied with conductive electrodes and homeotropic aligning layers..." None of the cited references including Soref, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 6 is allowable over the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 24 and 38 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 24 and 38 recite a combination of elements including, for example "first and second substrates, each of the first and second substrates having a transparent conductive layer..." None of the cited references including Soref, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 24 and 38, and claims 25-30 and 39-43 which depend therefrom are allowable over the cited references.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soref and reconsideration is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the Washington, D.C. telephone number 202-496-7413. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If there are any additional fees or overpayment in connection with the filing of this response, please use our Deposit Account No. 50-0911

Dated: March 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

24. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

first and second substrates, each of the first and second substrates having a transparent conductive layer; and

a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates[; and],

[a transparent conductive layer over the first substrate, the transparent conductive layer having a first portion and a second portion, the second portion being spaced from the first portion]

wherein said liquid crystal display is an electrically controlled birefringence type and at least one transparent conductive layer has a first conductive portion and a second conductive portion, the second conductive portion being spaced from the first conductive portion.

38. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

first and second substrates, each of the first and second substrates having a transparent conductive layer; and

a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates[; and],

[a transparent conductive layer over the first substrate, the transparent conductive layer having a first portion and a second portion, the second portion being spaced from the first portion, the first portion and the second portion each correspond to first and second electric fields, wherein

each of the first and the second portions of the transparent conductive layer has an end portion, the end portion distorting a corresponding electric field]

wherein said liquid crystal display is an electrically controlled birefringence type and at least one transparent conductive layer has a first conductive portion and a second conductive portion, the

second conductive portion being spaced from the first conductive portion, the first conductive portion and the second conductive portion each correspond to first and second electric fields and each of the first and second conductive portions of the transparent conductive layer has an end portion, the end portion distorting a corresponding electric field.